

REMARKS

By this paper, Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 12, 16, and 20. Applicant has not added any claims. The independent claims remain claims 1, 11, 12, 16 and 20. This amendment contains no new matter. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 8-12, 14, 16, 19, 25, 27, 31-33, 39, 40 and 44-46 under 35 USC § 102 as anticipated by Pfaff (U.S. Patent No. 2,961,510 ("Pfaff").

The Examiner has cited elements 49 and 50 (found in figures 5, 6, 7 and 8) of Pfaff as corresponding to the uninterrupted groove of claims 1, 11, and 12 that extend the length of the plate.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 12, 16 and 20 to say that the groove or grooves of the present invention extend along a substantially linear and straight path along the groove's entire length. Support for this amendment is found in the drawings. Applicant believes this limitation is not found in Pfaff. Applicant respectfully requests that this basis for rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to independent claim 16, the Examiner says Pfaff has a raised portion 63 which is capable of collapsing (at 66 or 86). Claim 16, as amended, now calls for a plurality of grooves to be formed in the raised portion that extend along a substantially linear and straight path the length of the plate along the groove's entire length. Again, Applicant respectfully requests that this basis for rejection be withdrawn.

As claims 3, 5, 8-10, 14, 19, 25, 27, 31-33, 39, 40 and 44-46 depend from one of the following independent claims 1, 11, 12, 16 and 20, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of these claims be removed for the reasons stated above.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-5, 8-12, 14-16, 20-13(sic), 25, 27, 28, 33, 34, 39-41 and 46-47 under 35 USC § 102 as anticipated by Losada WO 98/47668 ("Losada").

The Examiner argues that Losada teaches extending portions located opposite uninterrupted grooves ("shown at the position where elements 382 are located in Fig. 13").

Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 12, 16 and 20 to say that the groove or grooves of the present invention are defined by and are disposed inside of a pair of edges and said groove having a profile, said plate including portions outside both

of said pair of edges, said portions of said plate outside of said edges having different profiles than the profile of said groove inside both of said edges. Support for this amendment is found in the drawings. Applicant believes this limitation is not found in Losada. Applicant respectfully requests that this basis for rejection be withdrawn.

As claims 3 - 5, 8 -10, 14 -16, 21 – 23, 25, 27, 28, 33, 34, 39 – 41,46 and 47 depend from one of the following independent claims 1, 11, 12 and 16 and 20, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of these claims be removed for the reasons stated above.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The examiner has rejected claim 48 under 35 USC § 103 as unpatentable over Losada in view of Pfaff.

Applicant believes amended independent claim 16, and dependent claims 46 and 47 are allowable for the reasons indicated above, and does not repeat those arguments here. Claim 48 depends from these claims, incorporating all of their limitations and should therefore be allowed for the same reason. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 29, 30, 35-38, 42, 43 and 49-52 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have not amended these claims at this time, but rather hopes the Examiner will find the independent claims from which they depend allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance and allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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